

FORM PTO-1390

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER:
00P172:RC:LG

U.S. APPLN. NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/700116

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.:
PCT/AU99/00357

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE:
12 May 1999 (12.05.99)

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED:
12 May 1998 (12.05.98)

TITLE OF INVENTION: CARD GAME

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US: Atanas MANOV

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
 2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
 3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
 4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
 5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau. (see attached copy of PCT/IB/308)
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
 6. ☐ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
 8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
 10. ☐ A translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).
- Item 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:
11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
 12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
 13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
 14. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
 15. ☐ A substitute specification.
 16. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
 17. ☒ Other items or information: International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409) and Application Data Sheet

529 Rec'd PCT/PTC 13 NOV 2000

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CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY

17. ☒ The following fees are submitted:**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$ 1,000.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$ 860.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$ 710.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$ 690.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$ 100.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =

\$ 1000.00

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

\$

CLAIMS

NUMBER FILED

NUMBER EXTRA

RATE

\$

Total claims

14 - 20 =

0

X \$18.00

\$

Independent claims

1 - 3 =

0

X \$80.00

\$

MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS(S) (if applicable)

+ \$260.00

\$

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =

\$ 1000.00

Reduction of ½ for filing by small entity, if applicable. Applicant claims Small Entity Status under 37 CFR 1.27.

\$

500.00

+

SUBTOTAL =

\$ 500.00

Processing fee of \$130 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.49(f)).

\$

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =

\$ 500.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +

\$

40.00

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =

\$ 540.00

Amount to be
refunded:

charged:

a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ **540** to cover the above fees is enclosed.b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. **25-0120** in the amount of \$ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **25-0120**. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO

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November 13, 2000

By

Benoit Castel
Benoit Castel
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 35,041

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Atanas MANOV

Serial No. (unknown)

Filed herewith

CARD GAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action and calculation of the filing fee, please substitute Claims 8-13 as originally filed, which appear on page 7, with Claims 8-13 as filed in the Article 34 amendment of May 24, 2000. The page containing Claims 8-13 is marked "AMENDED SHEET" and is attached hereto. Following the insertion of Claims 8-13, please amend these claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1, line 1, change "any one of claims 1 to 2" to --claim 1--.

Claim 4, line 1, change "any one of claims 1 to 3" to --claim 1--.

Claim 5, line 1, change "any one of claims 1 to 4" to --claim 1--.

Claim 7, line 1, cancel "or 6".

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Claim 8, line 1, change "any one of claims 1 to 7"
to --claim 1--.

Claim 9, line 1, change "any one of claims 1 to 8"
to --claim 1--.

Claim 10, line 1, change any one of claims 1 to 9"
to --claim 1--.

Claim 12, line 1, cancel "or 11".

Claim 13, line 1, change "any one of claims 1 to 12"
to --claim 1--.

R E M A R K S

The above changes in the claims merely place this national phase application in the same condition as it was during Chapter II of the international phase, with the multiple dependencies being removed. Following entry of this amendment by substitution of the pages, only claims 8-13 remain pending in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By



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November 13, 2000

8. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the surface has a player card position and a dealer card position, and the cards for the player hand and the dealer hand are respectively placed in the player card position and the dealer card position.

5 9. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the cards including one or more sets of numbered cards, one or more sets of picture cards and at least one set of "Ace" cards, and each numbered card having a value from 2 to 10, each picture card being designated the value of 10, and each "Ace" card being selectively counted as the value of 1 or 11.

10 10. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein for the game rules a bet on one of the player betting zones or on one of the dealer betting zones is a winning bet when the player hand or the dealer hand has a cumulative card values closest to 21 or has a Blackjack; and a bet on one of said further betting zones associated with the player betting zones or the dealer zones is a winning bet
15 when the player hand or the dealer hand has said prenominated or paramount winning hand.

11. The card game according to claim 10 wherein a card is given to each said player hand and the dealer hand and the player hand must draw a card when its card value or cumulative card value is under 17; when the player hand having a
20 Blackjack hand the player hand is either immediately declared a winning hand, or is declared a winning hand only if the dealer hand does not have a Blackjack hand; when the player hand having a cumulative card value exceeding 21 the dealer hand is either immediately declared a winning hand, or is required to draw a card at a time until having a cumulative card value of at least 17 and not exceeding 21.

25 12. The card game according to claim 10 or 11 wherein where both the player hand and the dealer hand have respectively cumulative card values exceeding 21 the hand having a value closest to 21 is declared the winning hand or alternatively a tie is declared.

30 13. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein the game is played at a game table or on an electronic medium including an interactive

A CARD GAMETECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

THIS INVENTION relates to improvements in Casino card games and in particular but not limited to a "Blackjack" card game.

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Card games such as "Blackjack" card games are played in Casinos on a playing surface which normally has seven boxes and each box is limited to a maximum of three players. Therefore maximum number of players are limited.

Additionally the odds for winning for the players are low as players are playing against the dealer.

The betting choices for the players are limited to their own hands.

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to alleviate or reduce to a certain level one or more of the above prior art disadvantages. In particular another object of the present invention is to provide a new game that has the usual attraction associated with a known game such as "Blackjack" but with more and improved betting choices with odds designed to attract participants.

It is a further object to provide a new game where the number of players able to bet is increased.

20

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect the present invention resides in a card game for a dealer and at least one imaginary or real player receiving cards from the dealer, the game comprising a playing surface, one or more designated player betting zones along one side of the surface, where participants can bet on the player winning, one or more designated dealer betting zones along an opposite side of the surface where the participants can bet on the dealer winning, and one or more further betting zones associated with respective player and dealer betting zones. The or each said further betting zones is designated for a preominated or paramount winning hand for participants to place bets thereon. In use one or each participant places a bet on one or more of the betting zones and a dealer deals from one or more packs of cards cards for the player and for the dealer in a manner according to

card game rules. On completion of a hand participants are paid according to winning bets made and according to the game rules.

In preference, the surface has one or more tie zones for participants to place bets thereon so that a winning bet takes place when the dealer hand and the player hand are tied.

Typically there is one paramount zone for the dealer and one paramount zone for the player. An example of the prenominated winning hand is "Blackjack" in the game of that name.

It is also preferred that the playing surface is divided into sectors and each sector has one player zone, one dealer zone and a prenominated or paramount winning zone associated with each said player zone and dealer zone. If desired the sector can also contain one or more tie zones.

Desirably a predetermined odd is allocated to the tie zones and/or the prenominated or paramount winning hand zones. In the case of Blackjack the odds are preferably about 4:1 for a tie; 9:1 for blackjack, 1:1 for dealer winning, and 1:1 for player winning.

In one preferred form the surface has a player card position and a dealer card position, and the cards for the player hand and the dealer hand are respectively placed in the player card position and the dealer card position.

The cards may include one or more sets of numbered cards, one or more sets of picture cards and at least one set of "Ace" cards. Each numbered card has a value from 2 to 10, each picture card is given the value of 10, and each "Ace" card is selectively counted as 1 or 11.

In a particular preferred form of the game rules a bet on one of the player betting zones or on one of the dealer betting zones is a winning bet when the player hand or the dealer hand has a cumulative card values closest to 21 or has a Blackjack; and a bet on one of said further betting zones associated with the player betting zones or the dealer zones is a winning bet when the player hand or the dealer hand has said prenominated or paramount winning hand.

More particularly a card is given to each said player hand and the dealer hand and the player hand must draw a card when its card value or cumulative card value is under 17. The player hand may immediately be declared a winning

hand when it has a Blackjack hand, or can be declared a winning hand only if the dealer hand does not have a Blackjack hand. When the player hand has a cumulative card value exceeding 21 the dealer hand is immediately declared a winning hand, or is required to draw a card at a time until it has a cumulative card value of at least 17 and not exceeding 21.

Where both the player hand and the dealer hand have their cumulative card values exceeding 21 the hand having a value closest to 21 may be declared the winning hand or alternatively a tie may be declared.

The card game may be played at a game table or on an electronic medium including an interactive video and/or audio medium such as a television network, a computer network and any other suitable communications network.

Preferably said computer network is the Internet or an intranet of networked computers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In order that the present invention can be readily understood and put into practical effect the description will now refer to the accompanying drawings which illustrate an embodiment of the present invention and wherein:-

Figure 1 shows a layout of a surface for a dealer "Blackjack" game as an embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring now to Figure 1 there is shown a dealer "Blackjack" playing surface 10 for the dealer blackjack game according to an embodiment of the present invention. The surface 10 is semi-circular shaped and has a curved side 12 and a straight side 14.

The surface 10 includes seven sectors 16 of betting areas. Each sector 16 has player "Blackjack" betting zone 18, a player betting zone 20, a dealer "Blackjack" playing zone 22, a dealer betting zone 24 and a tie betting zone 26.

The surface 10 also has a playing card area 28 and a dealer card area 30 as shown in Figure 1.

A set of token boxes 32 is provided adjacent to the side 14. A shoe box 34 for cards is also provided. In this embodiment the game can be played with six to eight full decks of cards.

In this example the tie zones 26 are allocated the odd of four to one (4:1) and the "Blackjack" zones 18, 22 nine to one (9:1). Both the player betting zones 20 and the dealer betting zones 24 are paid even money. As usual, house commission of about 5% will be deducted from some or all of the winning bets.

5 The game has two hands, the player's and the dealer's. These are "community hands" for all participants who can place bets on any betting zones of the player or the dealer. That means a player simply bets against the cards and not playing against other players or the house.

10 In this game the values for the cards are the same for normal blackjack games. That is, the values of the numbered cards are as indicated on the cards and the picture cards (Jack, Queen and King) are counted as 10. Ace cards can be counted as 1 or 11.

15 In use, players can place bets on any of the zones 18 to 26 in any of the sectors 16. Accordingly, the players need to consider only how much to bet and whether to bet on the player or the dealer to win, and/or to opt for a tie hand, blackjack for the player or blackjack for the dealer.

When all the bets are placed a dealer retrieves a card from the shoe box 32 for each of the player area 28 and the dealer area 30. A second card is also retrieved and placed on the player area 28.

20 If the player's hand has a cumulative value of 16 or less the dealer continues to draw a card to the player's hand until the total score is 17 or more. If the player's hand has a cumulative value of 17 or more the player's hand must stand. The player is declared "bust" when his hand has a cumulative value higher than 21.

25 In one example, when the player's hand busts the dealer is declared the winner. In an alternative example when the player's hand busts the dealer hand must draw a card if it is 16 or less. The dealer is declared a winner only when his hand has a cumulative value of 16 or more and does not exceed 21.

30 In both examples, the hand closest to 21 wins and a tie occurs when both hands have the same value.

In said alternative example, if both hands bust the hand closest to 21 wins.

Blackjack is the paramount hand in this embodiment of the invention. Blackjack occurs when a hand has an ace card and a picture or a 10 card in the first two cards dealt to the hand.

5 A tie occurs when both the dealer hand and the player hand blackjacks or the same cumulative values.

When a tie occurs only bets on the tie zones 26 win. All other bets are a draw or a "stand off" i.e. neither a win nor a loss.

10 In this embodiment of the invention the "insurance" play as is generally known in the normal Blackjack game is not provided for.

Whilst the above has been given by way of illustrative example of the present invention many variations and modifications thereto will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the broad ambit and scope of the invention as set out in the appended claims.

15

CLAIMS

1. A card game for a dealer and at least one imaginary or real player receiving cards from the dealer, the game comprising a playing surface having at least two sides, one or more designated player betting zones along one side of the surface, where participants can bet on the player winning, one or more designated dealer betting zones along an opposite side of the surface where the participants can bet on the dealer winning, and one or more further betting zones associated with respective player and dealer betting zones, the or each said further betting zones being designated for a preominated or paramount winning hand for participants to place bets thereon, and in use one or each participant places a bet on one or more of the betting zones and a dealer deals from one or more packs of cards cards for the player and the dealer in a manner according to card game rules, on completion of a hand participants are paid according to winning bets made and according to the game rules.
2. The card game according to claim 1 wherein the surface has one or more tie zones for participants to place bets thereon so that a winning bet takes place when the dealer hand and the player hand are tied.
3. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 2 wherein said further betting zones including one or more preominated or paramount winning zones for the dealer and one or more preominated or paramount winning zones for the player.
4. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the preominated winning hand is "Blackjack" in the game of that name.
5. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the playing surface is divided into sectors and each sector has one player betting zone, one dealer betting zone and a preominated or paramount winning hand betting zone associated with each said player betting zone and dealer betting zone.
6. The card game according to claim 5 wherein each said sector has one or more tie zones.
7. The card game according to claim 5 or 6 wherein a predetermined odd is allocated to each said tie zone and/or each said preominated or paramount winning hand betting zones.

8. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the surface has a player card position and a dealer card position, and the cards for the player hand and the dealer hand are respectively placed in the player card position and the dealer card position.
- 5 9. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the cards including one or more sets of numbered cards, one or more sets of picture cards and at least one set of "Ace" cards, and each numbered card having a value from 2 to 10, each picture card being designated the value of 10, and each "Ace" card being selectively counted as the value of 1 or 11.
- 10 10. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein for the game rules a bet on one of the player betting zones or on one of the dealer betting zones is a winning bet when the player hand or the dealer hand has a cumulative card values closest to 21 or has a Blackjack; and a bet on one of said further betting zones associated with the player betting zones or the dealer zones is a winning bet
- 15 when the player hand or the dealer hand has said prenominated or paramount winning hand.
11. The card game according to claim 10 wherein a card is given to each said player hand and the dealer hand and the player hand must draw a card when its card value or cumulative card value is under 17; when the player hand having a
- 20 Blackjack hand the player hand is either immediately declared a winning hand, or is declared a winning hand only if the dealer hand does not have a Blackjack hand; when the player hand having a cumulative card value exceeding 21 the dealer hand is either immediately declared a winning hand, or is required to draw a card at a time until having a cumulative card value of at least 17 and not exceeding 21.
- 25 12. The card game according to claim 10 or 11 wherein where both the player hand and the dealer hand have respectively cumulative card values exceeding 21 the hand having a value closest to 21 is declared the winning hand or alternatively a tie is declared.
- 30 13. The card game according to any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein the game is played at a game table or on an electronic medium including an interactive

video and/or audio medium such as a television network, a computer network and any other suitable communications network.

14. The card game according to claim 13 wherein said computer network is the Internet or an intranet of networked computers.

1/1

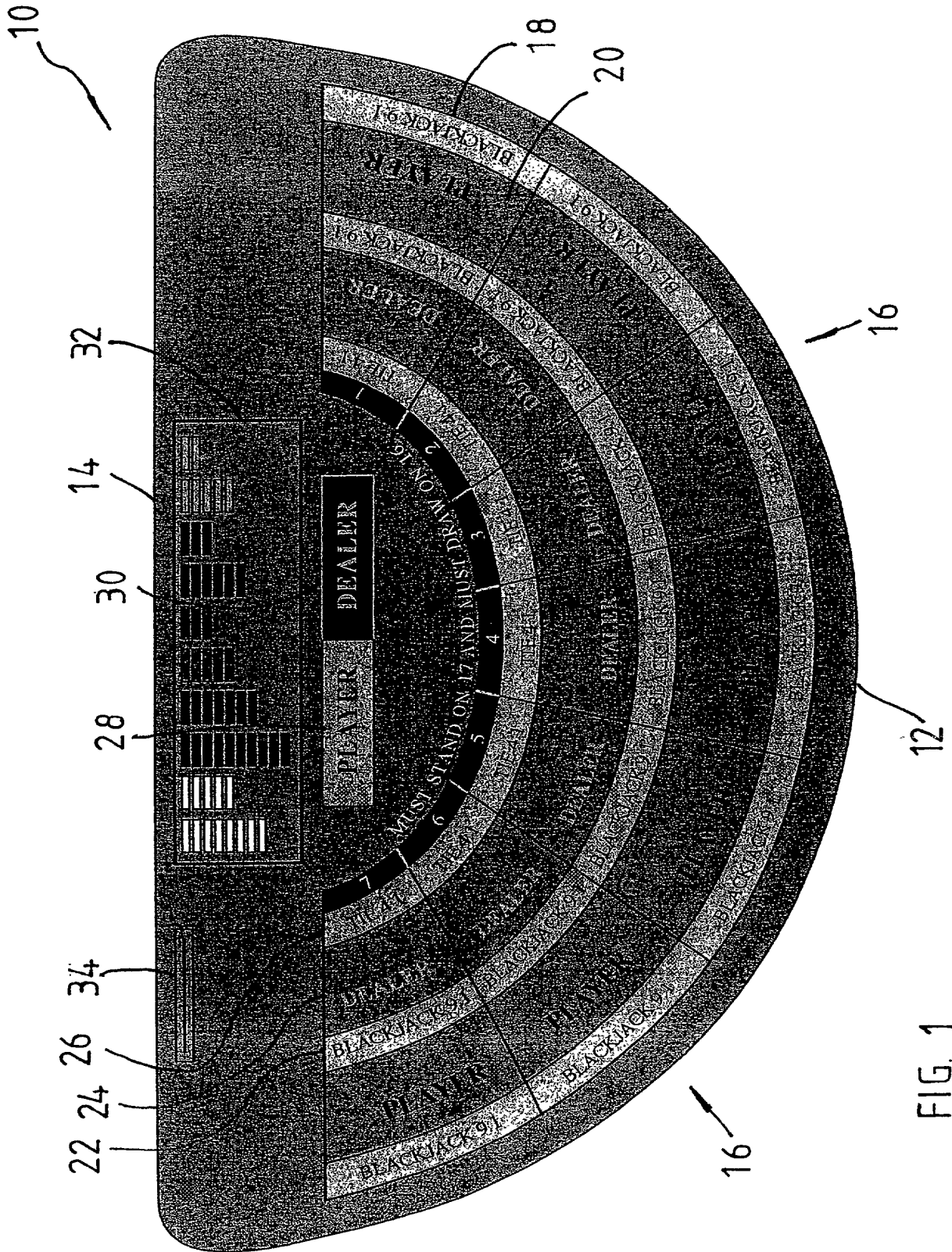


FIG. 1

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

the specification of which: *(check one)*

REGULAR OR DESIGN APPLICATION

- ☐ is attached hereto.
- ☐ was filed on _____ as application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

PCT FILED APPLICATION ENTERING NATIONAL STAGE

- ☒ was described and claimed in International application No. PCT/AU99/00357 filed on 12 May 1999 and as amended on _____ (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

PRIORITY CLAIM

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 USC 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Country	Application Number	Date of Filing (day, month, year)	Priority Claimed
Australia	PP3477	12 May 1998	Yes

(Complete this part only if this is a continuing application.)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 USC 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status--patented, pending, abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. attorney or agent named herein to accept and follow instructions from INTELLPRO as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorney or agent and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney or agent named herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: **Robert J. PATCH, Reg. No. 17,355, Andrew J. PATCH, Reg. No. 32,925, Robert F. HARGEST, Reg. No. 25,590, Benoît CASTEL, Reg. No. 35,041, Eric JENSEN, Reg. No. 37,855, and Thomas W. PERKINS, Reg. No. 33,027, c/o YOUNG & THOMPSON, Second Floor, 745 South 23rd Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202.**

Address all telephone calls to Young & Thompson at 703/521-2297.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor: Atanas Vissilev MANOV
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Inventor's signature [Signature]

Date 30 October 2000

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Inventor's signature [Signature]

Date 30. OCT. 2000

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Citizenship: Australian

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Full name of third joint inventor, if any:
(given name, family name)

Inventor's signature _____

Date _____

Residence: _____

Citizenship: _____

Post Office Address: _____